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## Today's Weather.

Portland, Dec. 20.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Wednesday rain; probably part snow.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Rain or snow.

## IN STATUS QUO.

It is evident, from the actions of the common council—or at least the contingent representing the citizens party—that there is an affinity existing between the British Columbia and Panama members of the quasipolice commission, that cannot be severed without doing incalculable injury to the democratic party. At every election they express their disapproval at what they call the "ring" of the republican party, yet at the same time they are fostering and nursing one of the most colossal political rings that ever existed in Clatsop county, and that is the "police commissioner ring." It is a well-known fact, that the police commission has nothing to do with the police force, but it is run, manipulated and managed by one man.

The action of the charter revision committee in opposing the repeal of the police commission, and of the common council in refusing to declare a vacancy in the offices of Cook and Baker, will receive the condemnation of all honest citizens interested in good government, irrespective of party affiliations. Few, if any, outside of a chosen few, indorsed the actions of the republicans in electing three police commissioners at the recent election but everyone knew that their action was not indorsed by the rank and file of the republican party. But with the democrats it is entirely different. They are in power in the city and have a majority of the members in the council. They can declare the two offices vacant, and have the power to select their own men. If they would do this, no matter who were selected, the public would be satisfied. But they refuse to accede to the demands of the public. It is evident that there isn't a man in their party that they are willing to trust, and they prefer a police commission that is powerless to act, two of whom are neither residents, and one of whom is not a resident or tax payer and who will never be here to interfere with the police ring, so necessary for the success of the democratic party.

The republicans are to blame for the present condition of affairs. Had it not been for republican votes, the police commission would not be democratic, and a commission would have been elected, that were qualified to act. It is very probable that the affairs of the police are being honestly administered, that as some of the democrats claim, there is no need for a police commission, but it is certainly an injustice to allow two men to hold public offices in Astoria who are not residents and never will be again. It places the entire affairs of the city in the hands of the police and their manager. If charges were preferred against the chief or any of the officers, for malfeasance in office, or dereliction of duty, the chief and officers could tell the public to go to a warmer climate, as there was no power to oust them from office, or investigate any charges that might be made. One man is not a police commission within the meaning of the charter. He can neither remove or appoint a chief of police or police officer. This is what the democratic council wants. It don't want any of their pets investigated. To show their contempt for the rights of the public, the following, taken from the official organ of the police ring, shows to what methods they will resort to to continue in power a non-resident police commission.

"The citizens have all the best of the police commission muddle and are contenting themselves with their ability to make it impossible for the republicans to do business. If Messrs. Prinel, Jones and Carney should be seated by order of the court, the council, which is made up of at least seven men who are opposed to the effort to capture the commission, could reduce the salaries of policemen to \$20 a month, and make the position of chief an honorary one. The new police commission would, under such circumstances, find it somewhat difficult to find men to accept the places offering."

Comment on the above is unnecessary. It speaks for itself. Should the courts decree that the commission elected last Wednesday was the lawful commission, it would reduce the salaries to drive them out of office. At the same time they have been raising the salaries of all the democratic officials until they are nearly double what they were five years ago. They have started in on another raise, commencing with the auditor and police judge and are going to raise his salary to \$150 a month. As soon as the public gets this digested and gets through kicking, it will raise the salaries of other officers, until, by "salary grabs" and the police commission, it will be able to raise a sufficient sack to carry the city election next December, at which three councilmen, at least two police commissioners, a mayor and all the city officials are to be elected.

There are only two remedies open to the republicans, and to the large majority of voters, who are dissatisfied with the actions of the common council. One is quo warranto proceedings, which will be instituted today in the circuit court, and if that fails, the passage of the charter of two years ago, which was vetoed by a democratic governor at the demand of the democratic ring, over the governor's veto. The legislature is strongly republican and when the facts are submitted to it, as it will be, there is no doubt of the passage of the charter over the governor's veto.

If the common council persists in refusing to declare the two offices of police commission vacant, one or both of the means herein outlined will be resorted to, but if the council will conserve the interests of the public and do that which they should do, there will be no necessity to resort to these measures. It is up to the common council. Will it perform its duty, or will they be compelled to do it?

## REPUISCAT EN PACE.

Dr. Lyman Abbott of New York, an eminent Congregational minister, declares that the Bible is obsolete, and not authentic, and he does not believe in a personal God, but the God of nature. This is the same belief enunciated by Henry Ward Beecher, Bob Ingersoll and other eminent divines, who have petitioned Lucifer for a pardon so that they can be admitted to "tother place." The sermon will, however, have a tendency to increase the army of infidels and agnostics, and will have a demoralizing effect on the progress of the Christian religion, coming as it does from such an educated and eminent divine as Dr. Lyman Abbott. He claims that the Bible is no longer to be accepted as authentic; that the 10 commandments were never promulgated from Mt. Sinai, but are the cause of growth and environments, and that a man is not a creature but a creation. This will afford food for thought and subjects for sermons by the local clergy of Astoria. A refutation is essential to the cause of Christianity.

He says that "the day of polytheism is past." Polytheism means "a person who believes in or maintains the doctrine of a plurality of Gods, or invisible beings superior to man, and having an agency in the government of the world." In other words, the theory of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, are now obsolete, and man is equal to if not superior to an invisible God.

On account of our theological education having been neglected, and not being as well versed in the scriptures as those of the Astoria clergy who have passed through the trying ordeal of ordination, to be admitted to practice in the pulpits of the various churches, we are not in a position to cope with the gymnastic somersaults of the eminent divine, whose teachings in the past have been regarded as an emanation of divine law, and who has been ranked as one of the followers of the Meek and Lowly One, whose birth we are to celebrate next Sunday, and this startling announcement will come as a thunderclap from a clear sky, and will compel the Astoria contingent of ministerial workers in the Lord's vineyard of Astoria to gird on their armor and prepare to resist the assault which threatens the foundation of the Christian religion.

The picture of the late Dan O'Neill published in yesterday's Oregonian, resembles more the "before and after" chronicle of Lydia Pinkham's advertisements. There was only three things that would enable an acquaintance of the popular river purser to identify him from the picture, and that is the cap, the button hole bouquet, and the name under the picture. The picture itself looked no more like Dan O'Neill than Mrs. Chadwick resembles the czar of Russia.

The necessity of establishing a light at the foot of Ninth street is apparent. Several accidents have occurred in this vicinity this winter, and the request was made to avoid further accidents. Between acknowledging the infallibility of the absent police commission and raising salaries, the council has no time to devote to the saving of lives. It is possible that a dispensation of divine providence may be necessary to awaken it to a realizing sense of the duty it owes the public. It evidently goes on the hypothesis that every man drowned is a republican and it don't need them in its business as much as it does an alien police commission.

# NEW PACIFIC LINERS

To Have Speed Equal to Atlantic Greyhounds.

MAKE 22 KNOTS AN HOUR

Japanese Government Expected to Increase Subsidy for the Toyo Kisen Kaisha to Get Fast Mail Boats for Oriental Ports.

San Francisco Dec. 20.—The Toyo Kisen Kaisha, whose steamships, the Hong Kong, America and Nippon, were taken for use with the Japanese navy, will soon be in the field again with three new fast ocean liners. The company will, it is said, within two months begin work on three 12,000 ton steamers. The material for the liners has been bought in Scotland. The vessels will be built at Nagasaki.

It was the intention to build the liners with a speed of 19 knots. The Japanese government, however, wants the Toyo Kisen Kaisha to build faster boats—at least 21 knotters. As this additional two knots will involve considerable extra expense, the steamship company has asked for a greater subsidy than it was originally agreed to give them. This is now under consideration at Tokyo and as soon as it is settled the keels of the liners will be laid.

## BEACH COMBINGS.

In New York the betting fraternity is placing odds today on Nan Patterson's acquittal, and she may go free but unless the former chorus girl mends her way the betting on her ultimate destination will be 100 to 1 with no takers.

Speaking of the dulcet strains of the soulless piano, an Astoria lady who has been compelled to listen to one of them "tearing off" more or less melodious sonatas, etc., complained yesterday: "Now, just listen to that thing—that's a funeral march now and the infernal-machine is playing it in quick time. Oh, well (resignedly), maybe it was a virulent case of contagious disease and they had to hurry."

The police reporters of the Portland newspapers are flourishing in the face of Chief of Police Hunt the fact that 50 burglaries have been committed there since December 1, both their editors should calm them with a club. There is nothing in Portland a stranger would steal, and that puts the population in the position of the man who robbed his own pockets.

The fishing laws are not the only ones that Captain Laws' constituents are going to ask him to revise. The captain is the new member from Clatsop county, and many are the measures for which he has been asked to become a parent, but the latest is the best. The captain went into one of the beef-tea camps on Commercial street Saturday for refreshments and the man with the white apron was remonstrating with a sallow faced individual who was presenting a petition for matches.

When he saw Captain Laws approaching, a relieved look floated over his face like the calm of oil on troubled waters, and as he sat out the captain's glass of milk he said: "Captain, I worked for you like a longshoreman at last election, and I shed enough sweat to make high tide look like a vanishing dew drop, and now there's something I want you to do for me. Am I on?"

"Son," replied the solon, except walking up and tickling the speaker's chin, there is nothing I won't do for you, pass the buck."

"I knew it," said Payne, "but what I want is this: I want an iron-clad, copper-riveted, chilled-steel law compelling every blamed cigarette smoker in Astoria to take a wheel-barrow with him to carry his own matches."

No sooner does Dr. Lyman Abbott promulgate his new creed of a universal God than the Brazilian legislators rush to executive session and from a law excluding from that country all friars, priests and new religious beliefs, either they heard of the doctor, or else they have a superior brand of religion there. Still, no saints have come out of Brazil yet, and Santos Dumont is the only thing from there known to fly, and his wings are artificial.

In another part of this paper will be found an article read before the New York Medical Association by a famous exponent of clinical medicine in which it is stated that drinking water aggravates nephritis and produces heart disease. There are but two conclusions; either the doctor is the victim of the insidious advances of a press agent for a brewery, or else this should be the signal for every man chained to

# P. A. STOKES

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till  
eight  
o'clock



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Not High-Priced Goods, for Gift Purposes Only, but Popular Novelties, in Popular Fabrics, at Popular Prices—to supply the wants of the every-day man who appreciates House Comfort. Let us show you the lines—you'll be willing to pay more than we ask.

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open  
every  
evening  
till  
eight  
o'clock

REMEMBER everything guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded.

# P. A. STOKES

"Swell Togs for Men."

the seat in the water wagon to visit a blacksmith and have his bonds loosened before the yawning grave gathers him in.

That will be all for this time.  
WEARY WILLIE.

## A TARTAR TRICKSTER.

The Way He Tried to Sell a Valise to a Foreigner.

At the annual fair in Nijni Novgorod I stepped with a German-Russian friend into a saddlery, where he wished to purchase a valise. He picked out one for which the Tartar merchant named a price that was evidently much in excess of its real value. My friend was making the usual feint under such circumstances of leaving the store when he noticed that the dealer, with a rapid movement, stuck a paper in the outside pocket of his valise. Not being a greenhorn in Russia, he knew immediately what the Tartar was up to.

"But, baria," said the latter, calling him back, "come. Look at the leather and the lining, silk all through. Please examine it carefully." He handed the valise again to my friend and turned back to his stock, apparently looking for other satchels to show. With a sly wink my friend extracted a ten ruble note from the outer pocket of the valise and hid it in his hand. Then he said: "Don't trouble yourself any longer. This valise seems to be what you say it is, and I will take it."

The Tartar grinned broadly as he turned around, satisfied that his little trick had succeeded. Then while my friend pretended to count out the purchase price he took hold once more of the valise in order accidentally to discover the bank note in it. I shall never forget his eyes, which bulged out of their sockets, or the petrified smile on his face when he found his money gone. He was so bewildered that he stammered like a drunken man.

"The fellow really ought to get a lesson," my friend said to me in German, while he kept the trickster in suspense for several minutes before handing him back the bank note, together with the valise, which the dealer now offered for less than half of what he had demanded before.—Sigmund Kranz in Booklovers' Magazine.

## CONVERSATION "DON'TS."

Don't indulge in personalities. They invariably return worse than they started out.

Don't mention family feuds. It embarrasses the listener, and you are sure to regret it.

Don't talk of the cost of things. It gives the rich a chance for boastfulness and may be embarrassing to the poor.

Don't tell your personal interests, occupations, hopes or aspirations. Nobody wants to hear them, and you give your dignity a mortal stab.

Don't discuss children. If you have any the chances are you are boring those who have not. If you have none, you are sure to be mortally wounding those who have.

Don't discuss dress. The lady whose evening gown you are scoring may have come direct from Paris, wearing the newest thing, and the whole subject is a hopeless one anyway.—Harper's Weekly.

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## "Slaves of Russia"

Followed on other nights by: "Brother Against Brother," "Capt. Fresh, U. S. A.," "Senator's Daughter," "Power of Truth" and "Light House Robbery."

PRICES: Reserved Seats, 35c.; Children in Gallery 15c., Adults 25c. Seat sale opens Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at Fisher Bros. Office.

## Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was marvelous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist.

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